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Archaeological
Institute
of America

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN
ARCHAEOLOGY

To the Council of the Archaeological Institute of America:

GENTLEMEN, — As Chairman of the Committee on American Archaeology, I have the honor to report as follows: —

No application having been made for the Fellowship of American Archaeology, no one was appointed to fill that position.

In January, 1907, Professor Edgar L. Hewett was appointed Director of American Archaeology. This position is an entirely new one, and the appointment has been amply justified. The following statement by the Director sets forth in some detail the work that he has accomplished. A full report by the Director will be ready for publication in a few months.

At the next General Meeting the Committee will report plans for what it believes will be a more effective organization of its work, in the form of a School of American Archaeology.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES P. BOWDITCH, *Chairman*.

Boston,
October 1, 1907.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

1907

To the Committee on American Archaeology :

I have the honor to submit my first annual report as Director of American Archaeology of the Archaeological Institute of America.

In the prosecution of the work the Director has been guided by the plan adopted by the Institute at its meeting in Washington, in December, 1906, as fundamental to all American work.

During the months of January and February, the time of the Director was occupied in the preparation of general plans for the American work and in lecturing before the Societies of the Institute at the following places : St. Louis, Kansas City, Lawrence, Topeka, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver, Boulder, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Davenport, Dubuque, and Cincinnati. In the course of this tour the preliminary plans were made for the season's field-work, including arrangements for the necessary financial support. A conference was also held, as directed by your Committee, with the Legislature of New Mexico and people of Santa Fé, relative to the proposed tender of the Old Government Palace to the Institute.

The months of March, April, and May were devoted to perfecting in detail the plans for field-work and to the consideration of the rules and regulations issued by various departments of government for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, passed by Congress, June 8, 1906. Exceptions were taken to these rules on the ground that they placed upon scientific research harmful and unnecessary restrictions which were not contemplated by the Act of Congress. Practically all institutions in the United States that are interested in archaeological research concurred in the objections to the rules and joined in requesting their revision. The request was granted and a

joint committee of the Departments of War, the Interior, and Agriculture reconsidered the rules in conference with the committee representing the scientific organizations, accepted the recommendations of this committee and adopted new rules, which were acceptable to all the institutions. The new rules were approved and signed by the Secretaries of War and the Interior. The Secretary of Agriculture declined to concur until further investigation of conditions could be made by himself and the officers of his department. It is hoped and believed that this investigation will result in entire unanimity of action with reference to the prosecution of archaeological research on the lands owned or controlled by the Government. During the present year there has been no archaeological work whatever done on the lands controlled by the Department of Agriculture, namely, the national forests.

Owing to the long delay occasioned by the conferences relating to the revision of rules and regulations, as above stated, announcements of expeditions could not be sent out until late in May. Pursuant to the order of your Committee, the privilege of joining the expeditions and participating in the work was extended to properly qualified students. A number availed themselves of the opportunity offered.

Field operations began in April and continued until October. The work of the season was confined to two culture areas. First, in that which will tentatively be called the "Mound Region" of the Mississippi Valley, in which the work consisted of excavations in Boone County, Missouri, and a reconnaissance of remains in the southeastern part of that State. Second, in that commonly known as the "Pueblo Region," lying mainly in the southwestern part of the United States. In this region expeditions were directed in southeastern Utah, the McElmo drainage on the Colorado-Utah line, the Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, and the ruins of Puye in the northern part of Pajarito Park, New Mexico.

The research work of the Utah Society was made possible through the generosity of its President, Colonel E. A. Wall, who placed the sum of \$1000 at the disposal of the Executive Committee, to be used in investigating the ancient ruins in the southeastern part of the State. Dean Byron Cummings, of

the State University, Secretary of the Utah Society, took personal charge of the expedition as executive officer, and his untiring energy and resourceful management made possible the large amount of work accomplished by the scientific corps. The Director joined the expedition at Monticello, Utah. The following students of the University of Utah were enrolled for participation in the work: Mr. J. C. Brown, Mr. Fred Scranton, Mr. Joseph Driggs, and Mr. Neil Judd. Attached to the party were also Messrs. Frank Fay Eddy and Burl Armstrong, of Salt Lake City.

The work consisted of an examination of all the evidences of prehistoric culture north of the San Juan River from Montezuma Canyon and its tributaries west to the Colorado River. The area thus embraced forms the southern half of the Abajo plateau, and is rich in prehistoric remains. As this is for the most part an unsurveyed region that has never been accurately mapped, a large amount of original topographical work and some surveying were necessary in order that archaeological maps might be prepared. The field notes of the expedition also comprise such an account of the physiography of the region as seems necessary to an understanding of the general character and distribution of the ancient culture.

The following canyons with their tributaries and mesas were explored and mapped, and the archaeological remains found therein investigated and described: the Montezuma, Recapture, Cottonwood, Butler, Comb Wash, Grand Gulch, and White Canyon. As the expedition proceeded, it became evident that the amount of descriptive work necessary to make known the archaeological conditions of this large region would preclude the possibility of systematic excavations during the present season. Accordingly descriptive work was prosecuted as thoroughly as possible, and only test excavations undertaken. Although the making of collections was only incidental, some collections of considerable value were acquired for the State University of Utah. Among the results that are entirely new to science will be the description of the cliff-ruins centring about the natural bridges of White Canyon. As literature relating to the archaeology of this little-known region is almost entirely wanting, the results of this expedition in the form of a report on

the archaeology of southeastern Utah, including topographical and archaeological maps and plans, with photographs and descriptions of ruins and of collections representing the arts and industries of the ancient inhabitants, will be presented to your Committee for publication.

The sum of \$500 was raised by the Colorado Society to defray the expense of its two expeditions. These operations were confined to two definite and closely limited districts in the southwestern part of the State; namely, the McElmo drainage and the Mesa Verde. Each of these districts embraces ruins of striking character.

The task of giving an account of the archaeology of a district about six miles square, the centre of which is the junction of the Yellowjacket and McElmo Canyons, was assigned to Messrs. Sylvanus G. Morley, A. V. Kidder, and J. G. Fletcher, students enrolled from Harvard University. The Director was present only at the beginning and close of the work.

This small area is in the heart of what may be called an "ethnic district" of the extensive sub-culture area embraced in the San Juan drainage. Throughout that region certain similarities in culture prevail, sufficiently marked to permit of a grouping of all of its subdivisions into what may be designated as "the San Juan culture." These subdivisions are primarily physiographic, but in each obvious cultural variations occur, sufficiently definite to indicate ethnic differences. Well-defined ethnic districts are the Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde, the McElmo and its tributaries, and farther west a group including the Cottonwood, Grand Gulch, and White Canyon.

The close study of a limited portion of the McElmo district proved instructive. The principal groups of ruins studied were found in the Cannonball, Bridge, Holly, and Ruin Canyons. An important outlying group some miles to the west on what has been named Putnam Mesa was included and numerous minor ruins received attention. The present research is the beginning of a systematic study of this district and should be followed by the excavation of one or more important sites. Previous studies here have been in the nature of reconnaissance work only. The results of the season's investigations, embodied in a report now in process of preparation by Messrs. Morley

and Kidder will be submitted to your Committee for publication.

The second expedition of the Colorado Society undertook the study of another ethnic district, the Mesa Verde, in Montezuma County in Colorado. Here are found the most remarkable cliff dwellings known, and the principal object of the work was to secure accurate and complete illustration and description of architectural features. The Director was assisted by Dr. A. J. Fynn, of Denver, representing the Colorado Society, Messrs. Morley, Kidder, and Fletcher, of Harvard University, and Mr. Jess Nusbaum, now of the New Mexico Normal University, an expert photographer. The ruins studied are all found in Navaho and Ruin Canyons and their tributaries. The ruins of first importance that were investigated were Cliff Palace, Spruce Tree House, Balcony House, and Peabody House. Previously published ground plans of the first two by Nordenskiöld were found somewhat faulty and were rectified. Other buildings studied were Nordenskiöld House, the Swallows' Nests, Red House, and Hemenway House. The errors of the earlier topographical maps were corrected and the archaeological map of the district perfected as far as practicable. Similar work remains to be done on the western half of the park and the early work of Holmes in the Mancos Canyon should be extended.

In the spring of 1906, the Secretary of the Interior requested that the Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology designate an archaeologist to proceed to the Mesa Verde and make an archaeological survey and report thereon, the object being to determine the merits of the measure then pending in Congress for the preservation and protection of these ruins by establishing there a national park. The writer, then Fellow of the Archaeological Institute of America, was designated for the task. The survey disclosed the fact that the most important ruins lay outside of the proposed boundaries of the park on the reservation of the Southern Ute Indians. In the preliminary report a plan was suggested by which all the ruins could be included within the jurisdiction of the park without injustice to the Indians. The recommendation was approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and Congress took favorable action

upon the bill establishing the park. In a final report to the Secretary of the Interior on the above work it was recommended that out of the appropriations made by Congress, for the improvement of the park, \$3000 should be set aside for the excavation, repair, and protection of the ruins, to be done under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution, and, further, that collections made on the park representing the material culture of the ancient inhabitants be retained there for the development of a local museum. It is learned that the first recommendation is in accord with the policy of the Interior Department and that the work of excavation and repair will begin in the spring of 1908 under the direction of Dr. J. Walter Fewkes. The work done by the Institute up to date will constitute a proper introduction to the extensive operations planned by the Government. Should the recommendation with reference to the development of a local museum also be acceptable, there is little doubt that the Institute, through its Colorado Society, will coöperate in building up a museum that will augment the educational value of the park.

In view of the demand for information pertaining to the national park, the report of the work of the Colorado expedition will be offered for publication.

The Southwest Society has undertaken a study of the archaeology of the Rio Grande Valley, a sub-culture area of the Pueblo Region of equal rank with the San Juan Valley. The sum of \$600 was raised by the Society for the maintenance of its expedition.

The preliminary descriptive work on this region has been previously done, principally by Mr. Bandelier under the auspices of the Institute, by Mr. Lummis, and by the writer under the New Mexico Normal University and later under the Bureau of American Ethnology. The most definite ethnic district is the Pajarito Park, a plateau bounded by the Rio Grande on the east, the Rio Chama on the north, the Jemez Mountains on the west, and the Cañada de Cochiti on the south. The district is forty miles long and from five to fifteen miles wide. Its alternating canyons and mesas have been the home of a large prehistoric population. It embraces many thousands of "excavated cliff dwellings," not less than

forty ruins of ancient pueblos containing originally from one hundred to twelve hundred rooms each, and hundreds of "small house" ruins of from two to one hundred rooms each.

The work undertaken here was the systematic excavation of a type ruin of the district, known as Puye, ten miles west of the Tewa Indian village of Santa Clara. The Director was assisted by Messrs. Morley, Kidder, and Fletcher, of Harvard University, Mr. D. D. Streeter, Jr., of Columbia University, regular students, and Mrs. J. E. Wood, of Santa Fé, and Miss Constance Goddard DuBois, of Waterbury, Connecticut. Fifteen Tewa Indians, mostly from the village of San Ildefonso, were on the pay-roll as excavators, the daily working force ranging from six to twelve.

This ruin forms a great quadrangle covering roughly an area of two and one-half acres. The buildings composing it were stone structures resembling the present terraced pueblos of Taos, Zuñi, and Walpi. The highest portions may have contained four stories. The number of rooms on the ground floor was a little short of seven hundred, the total number of rooms originally being from one thousand to twelve hundred. The ruin is situated on the rim of a mesa of volcanic tufa in the southern face of which are about seven hundred "excavated cliff dwellings." One hundred and twenty rooms in the "South House" were cleared, all debris removed, and walls, floors, fireplaces, etc., laid bare, so that the entire ground floor may be seen in about the same condition as when occupied. The excavations yielded 3127 museum specimens, somewhat over half being the bones of birds and mammals, the identification of which will throw light upon the food supply of the people. Of articles representing the material culture of the inhabitants, between twelve hundred and thirteen hundred were found, comprising tools, implements, and utensils of stone, bone, and wood, ceremonial objects, pottery, etc.

Probably the most important result of the excavations at Puye was the discovery of objects tending to establish definite relationship between the ancient pueblos of the Rio Grande Valley and the ancient inhabitants of northern Mexico. The numerous specimens of pottery bearing glazed ornament add a wealth of evidence, corroborating that heretofore presented by

the writer, that the knowledge of glazing must be regarded as a pre-Spanish attainment of certain American peoples. In all the investigations that have been conducted in this region not a vestige of Caucasian influence has been discovered. A report on the work at Puye will be presented for publication during the coming winter.

The field operations of the St. Louis Society were conducted by Mr. Gerard Fowke. The sum of \$1500 was raised by the Society for the maintenance of the work.

Mr. Fowke began work in April in the vicinity of Hartsburg, Missouri. He had during the previous year made extensive excavations in the mounds near that place. The opening of six more mounds yielded results so similar to those of the previous year's excavations as to make it seem improbable that further investigations there would result in additions to knowledge of that culture. He then moved to Rocheport, in the extreme western corner of Boone County, and examined one mound, finding a general similarity to the culture further down the river, but noting certain minor variations. He next examined the so-called "underground houses" near Kansas City, and established to his satisfaction the identity of these with the stone vaults previously described by him in central Missouri. He then visited the "Indian Stone House," near Louisiana, in Pike County, but found it to be so far demolished as to be useless for study. His next work was the making of a survey of the "Old Fort" at "The Pinnacles," in Saline County. This is an embankment with exterior and interior ditches surrounding the top of a ridge. In the neighborhood is a somewhat extensive village site, and Mr. Fowke noted here pottery of a different character from any other found along the Missouri River. He then went to southeastern Missouri and spent six weeks in reconnaissance work in three or four counties, finding conditions generally unfavorable for archaeological work both on account of the condition of the mounds and the scarcity of laborers. Mr. Fowke's report on the studies made by him in the last two years in central Missouri is almost ready for publication.

In addition to the work of the five expeditions above described a systematic attempt has been inaugurated in Colorado

and Utah, through the students of the higher and secondary educational institutions, to record all archaeological sites in those States, with a view to preparing State archaeological maps at some time in the future. The value of this work cannot yet be determined. Should it prove successful in the two States named, the plan will be extended to other States.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that the amount of research work possible to the Institute, through its numerous Societies, is large and will grow to greater proportions. It would seem that the most efficacious way of handling this work and keeping it on a high plane of efficiency is that already inaugurated, namely, through coöperation with American universities, thus bringing into the work a large number of students already trained in the methods of scientific research, and affording them in return for their assistance opportunities which they might not otherwise have for original research in the field. The fields occupied by the Institute make a rare training school for archaeologists, and students of human culture, classical as well as American, can be much benefited by the experience which it affords.

Pressing needs of the American work are, first, a publication fund, and second, an Archaeological Station in the Southwest where a central depository for materials secured by the various expeditions may be maintained which will serve as a distributing point for museum material. This would enable the Institute to render much service in the development of local museums for educational purposes.

It would seem that the field-work of the Institute within the limits of the United States is now fairly well organized, and that more attention should be given in the future to the related and higher cultures of Mexico and Central America. This could be done by the maintenance of excavations at some important site in Central America, and by the establishment of additional research-fellowships. The Director would be pleased to take steps looking toward the inauguration of such excavations and the endowment of such fellowships whenever authorized by your Committee to do so.

Grateful acknowledgment is made of the cordial support afforded the Director by the members of the Committee during

this year of formative activity. It has been an especial pleasure to direct the work of the branch societies. Their officers have been appreciative of the efforts in their behalf. They have been active and devoted to the interests of the Institute and the advancement of culture and are doing a work of far-reaching good in stimulating scientific investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

EDGAR L. HEWETT, *Director.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.,
November, 1907.